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by Dr. H. A. Gleason was postponed on account of the illness of Dr. Gleason. Dr. G. Clyde Fisher gave a most interesting illustrated talk on "John Burroughs and his Favorite Haunts." Many of the lantern-slides were concerned with plants of the Hudson River valley and the Catskill Mountains.

MARSHALL A. HOWE
Secretary

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 1922.

As the fourth Wednesday in February coincided with a legal holiday, the second meeting for the month of February was omitted.

MARSHALL A. HOWE
Secretary

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton returned to New York on April 10, having devoted several months to botanical explorations in Porto Rico.

Dr. Francis W. Pennell, who was Secretary and Treasurer of the Torrey Botanical Club during the greater parts of 1920 and 1921, is now Curator of Botany in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. His former position as Associate Curator at the New York Botanical Garden has been taken by Mr. James A. Crawford, formerly of the Buffalo Botanic Garden. Dr. Pennell recently left with his wife to spend some months collecting in Columbia, S. C.

An obituary notice of the late George Valentine Nash, who was for twenty years Head Gardener of the New York Botanical Garden and for even a longer period a member of the Torrey Botanical Club, appears in the *Journal of the New York Botanical Garden* for last August.

Through the personal generosity of Dr. N. L. Britton, the New York Botanical Garden has acquired the collection of algae left by Mr. F. S. Collins of Malden, and later of North Eastham, Mass. This collection includes more than 40,000 specimens and is doubtless one of the largest private collections of its kind in existence. The late Mr. Collins was the author of a well-known monograph on "The Green Algae of North America and of other important papers on the algae of the United State Bermuda, Jamaica, etc.

The Thompson Institute for Plant Research.

The Thompson Institute for Plant Research was founded by Colonel William Boyce Thompson of Yonkers, New York. It is being built at 1086 North Broadway, Yonkers.

The Institute is to devote itself to fundamental research on plants. In the beginning the greater emphasis will be placed on the physiological, pathological and biochemical phases of the subject, for it is felt that these phases of the subject most need additional attention. In pathology especial attention will be given to the physiological and chemical aspects, involving a study of the effect of nutritional, growth and hereditary factors upon development of fungal, bacterial and viris diseases.

While the main emphasis is to be placed on the phases of the subject mentioned above, the staff will be so chosen as to bring together the knowledge and technic of all phases of the subject of plant science. It is hoped to focus this diversity of knowledge and technic upon the solution of problems of plant development and disease. It is believed that, because of the complexity of biological problems, such cooperative attacks are now necessary for anything like a speedy and thorough solution of them. The same is true of many problems in medicine and the industries but in these such cooperative attacks are more common.

Besides the most modernly equipped laboratories and green-houses for plant research, there will also be a number of green-houses and other chambers in which all growth factors are under control: light (duration, quality and intensity), carbon dioxide concentration, temperature of soil and air, water vapor of air, and soil nutrients. In this way all factors can be accurately studied in their relation to development and disease. Control of these factors over a wide range of intensity will make it possible to study plants of very different nutrient constitution in both health and disease.

One Hundred Years Ago. "The present rage for cutting up genera has gained such an ascendancy, that I am compelled to yield to it, though with pain and regret. Every artificial character is seized with greediness and applied with great ingenuity in mangling the Linnean system of genera. I consider it the ephemeral reign of Innovators, which our successors will remember but to despise. And most of these new names which

are founded on artifiical characters will soon sleep with their authors."—Eaton's Manual of Botany (3rd ed.) 414. 1822.

The cut of Dr. Torrey appearing on our cover is made from a photograph of the excellent bust of Torrey at the American Museum of Natural History. The Club is grateful to the museum for furnishing the photograph and for permission to use the cut.